



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

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Contact: Rosemary Shaul, (916) 554-2802

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**MARYSVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH
PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that on April 12, 2007, a federal grand jury returned an eight count indictment charging RICHARD MATUCK, 49, of Marysville, California with production, transportation, and possession of visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Today the defendant was arrested and ordered detained as a danger to the community pending further proceedings (arraignment, status of plea and further detention proceedings) on April 18, 2007.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the Marysville Police Department, Yuba County Sheriff's Office, Yuba County District Attorney's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Chico Safe Streets Task Force as a part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). Project Safe Childhood is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

An ongoing, but independent, investigation of RICHARD MATUCK is being conducted by the Marysville Police Department and the Yuba County District Attorney's Office. Anyone having information related to that case is encouraged to call Investigator Mary Barr at the Yuba County District Attorney's Office at 530-749-7770.

"This case is a poster child for Project Safe Childhood, in that local and federal law enforcement officers and prosecutors have worked collaboratively to take a sexual predator off the streets and make our communities safer. Law enforcement is one team in this fight to protect our children." stated United States Attorney Scott.

"This case serves as an example of law enforcement authorities working together at all levels of government toward a successful resolve on a very serious child sex predator case. The citizens we all serve deserve no less. I have particular praise for the U.S. Attorney's Violent Gangs, Fugitive and Sexual Predators (VGESP) Safe Streets Task Force, which provides the frame work for interagency cooperation and access to resources that small agencies such as mine that we otherwise wouldn't have." said Chief Jack Beecham of the Marysville Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laura L. Ferris, who is prosecuting the federal case, the indictment alleges that between February 2004 and August 2006 the defendant produced visual depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct in Rome, Italy and in California while he was in a custodial relationship with the minor. In addition, the defendant transported a number of such depictions from Rome, Italy to California, and he possessed a number of such depictions in California between December 2006 and January 19, 2007. The indictment also alleges forfeiture of the computer containing the visual depictions.

The maximum statutory penalty for a each production count is 30 years incarceration, a \$250,000 fine, and a supervised release term of life. The mandatory minimum for each count is 15 years incarceration. The maximum statutory penalty for transportation is 20 years incarceration, a \$250,000 fine, and a supervised release term of life. The mandatory minimum for transportation is 5 years incarceration. The maximum statutory penalty for possession is not more than 10 years incarceration, a \$250,000 fine, and a supervised release term of life. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory sentencing factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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